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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

ONE HUNDREDTH REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

Chairman: Mr. Renagi Renagi LOHIA (Papua New Guinea)

1. The Working Group held its 138th meeting on 14 July 1993.

1. Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

2. In connection with the question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters, the Working Group recalled that the General Assembly, by paragraph 6 of its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961, authorized the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions. By paragraph 3 (9) of the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, the Assembly directed the Committee to continue to hold meetings away from Headquarters as appropriate.

3. Notwithstanding the above, the Working Group was of the view that it was not necessary at that time for the Special Committee to consider holding meetings away from Headquarters. The Working Group decided to recommend that the Committee should take that view into consideration.

2. Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations

4. The Working Group proposed that the Special Committee recommend to the General Assembly that the Committee should continue to be represented at seminars, meetings and conferences organized by United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of

decolonization and that the practice of consulting members of the Committee prior to the acceptance of invitations to such meetings should be maintained. The Working Group also recommended that the Assembly should make appropriate budgetary provisions to cover such activities in 1994.

3. Pattern of conferences

5. The Working Group noted that, during the year, the Special Committee had closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution 47/202 of 22 December 1992. By organizing its programme of work effectively and by holding extensive consultations and working in informal session, the Committee had been able to curtail considerably the number of its formal meetings. The Working Group recommended that the Special Committee should continue to pursue its efforts to rationalize the use of the conference-servicing resources and to avoid as far as possible last-minute cancellation of scheduled meetings.

6. The Working Group decided to recommend that, taking into account the probable workload of the Special Committee for 1994, the Committee should consider holding its meetings according to the following schedule:

(a) Plenary

February/June	As required
July	20 meetings (6 to 8 meetings a week)

(b) Subsidiary bodies

March/June	30 meetings (3 to 5 meetings a week)

7. It was understood that that programme would not preclude the holding of any ad hoc meetings that might be warranted and that the Special Committee might, in early 1994, review the scheduled meetings on the basis of new developments that might arise. The Working Group recommended that, subject to any directives given by the General Assembly, the Special Committee, while fulfilling its mandate, should strive to keep its meetings to a minimum.

4. Control and limitation of documentation

8. The Working Group noted that, during the year, the Special Committee had taken further measures to control and limit its documentation in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 34/50 of 23 November 1979 and 39/68 of 13 December 1984. Those measures included the circulation of its documents in provisional or unofficial form whenever appropriate. The Working Group recommended that, consistent with the goal of limiting documentation, the Special Committee should streamline its report to the General Assembly. In order to limit the Committee's documentation further, the Working Group decided to recommend that the working papers relating to foreign economic and other interests and military activities and arrangements should be combined to form a single document.

5. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

9. The Working Group decided to recommend that the Special Committee should continue consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives which the General Assembly might give at its forty-eighth session.

6. International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

10. The Working Group noted with satisfaction that the regional seminar held in Papua New Guinea from 8 to 10 June 1993, carried out by the Committee within the context of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, was successful. The Working Group recommended to the Committee that the summary of discussions of that seminar should be taken into account in its consideration of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

11. Noting that the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism provides for the holding of seminars in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, alternately, the Working Group decided to recommend that the Committee should organize in 1994 a seminar at Headquarters to be attended by representatives of all the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, irrespective of their location. The seminar would provide an opportunity to carry out a mid-term review of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and hear the views of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

12. The Working Group further decided to recommend that the Committee should invite United Nations organs, agencies and institutions to apprise the Secretary-General of actions they have taken in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 relating to the Plan of Action and submit a report to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

7. Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

13. The Working Group decided to recommend that the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee at Headquarters, as recommended by the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, should continue to be facilitated through the reimbursement by the United Nations of the expenses relating to their participation under the terms of the guidelines adopted by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

14. In that connection, the Working Group decided to recommend that paragraph 5 of the guidelines which the Special Committee had adopted in 1992 (A/AC.109/L.1791, annex) should be amended to read as follows:

> "5. Requests for funding shall be approved on a case-by-case basis by a decision of the Special Committee when in session or, between sessions, by its Bureau. In the latter case, such approval will be given only after the request has been circulated to the members and has been endorsed by the

majority of the members. With due regard to the financial rules and regulations of the United Nations, requests for funding will be granted only within the limit of the provisions approved by the General Assembly under the appropriate accounts for the year concerned."